

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 BIB-01 IO-13 ACDA-12 /097 W
-----116754 252007Z /63

R 251917Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2215
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 11766

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PEPR, SHUM, UR, US, UK
SUBJECT: ORLOV TRIAL: TV COMMENTARY; UK POSTPONEMENT
OF SIGNING CEREMONY

REF: MOSCOW 11461

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: JUDGING FROM SOVIET TV COMMEN-
TARY MAY 24, OFFICIAL SOVIET EXPLANATION OF US CONGRESS-
IONAL CONDEMNATION OF ORLOV TRIAL MAY HAVE BEEN REVISED
SUBSEQUENT TO PUBLICATION OF MAY 23 TASS COMMENTARY
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ON THE HOUSE RESOLUTION (REFTEL).

2. THE MAY 23 TASS PIECE IMPLIED THAT THE CONGRESS
AND THE ADMINISTRATION WERE INTERESTED IN SUCH PEOPLE
AS ORLOV BECAUSE THE LATTER CARRIED OUT ASSIGNMENTS OF
U.S. INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. POLITICAL COMMENTATOR
ANATOLIY POTAPOV, APPEARING ON THE NATION-WIDE NEWS

PROGRAM "VREMYA" EVENING OF MAY 24, TOOK A SOMEWHAT
BROADER VIEW. ACCORDING TO POTAPOV:

--WESTERN INTEREST IN ORLOV AND "OTHER CRIMINALS"
STEMMED FROM A NUMBER OF FACTORS;

--IN THE FIRST PLACE, "CERTAIN PEOPLE" IN WASHINGTON
FOUND SOVIET TREATMENT OF ORLOV AND HIS KIND DISTASTE-
FUL BECAUSE, AS ESTABLISHED IN COURT, THEY "HAD TIES"
WITH U.S. INTELLIGENCE SERVICES AND CARRIED OUT ASSIGN-
MENTS FOR THESE SERVICES; CERTAIN CIRCLES IN THE U.S.
ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO DEFLECT ATTENTION FROM THE
FAILURES OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE WITH WHICH THE CRIMINALS
WERE CONNECTED;

--SECONDLY, THE FUSS OVER ORLOV REPRESENTS "A NEW
ATTACK BY CERTAIN POLITICAL FORCES AGAINST THE HELSINKI
FINAL ACT;" AT THE BELGRADE CSCE MEETING
SOME U.S. CONGRESSMEN UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO
ESTABLISH THEIR RIGHT TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL
AFFAIRS OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF THE
FINAL ACT; THEY ARE NOW TRYING AGAIN TO "LEGALIZE
DIRECT INTERFERENCE IN OUR AFFAIRS;"

--IN ADDITION, SOME IN THE WEST WISH TO CREATE
MISTRUST OF SOVIET DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS WHICH WILL
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BE PRESENTED TO THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT;

--IN SUM, THIS LATEST "ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN"
REPRESENTS AN ATTEMPT TO MISLEAD LIGHT-MINDED PEOPLE
AND TO REVISE THE FINAL ACT, BUT THE CAMPAIGN WILL
NOT SUCCEED.

3. AS WITH ALL OTHER SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE
ORLOV CASE, POTAPOV DID NOT MENTION OR IMPLY THAT
ORLOV WAS CHAIRMAN OF A GROUP FORMED TO MONITOR SOVIET
COMPLIANCE WITH THE CSCE FINAL ACT, NOR IN DISCUSSING
FOREIGN REACTION TO THE ORLOV CASE DID POTAPOV
SPECIFICALLY MENTION WESTERN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN
THE U.S. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT THE
BRITISH EMBASSY TELLS US THAT AS A RESULT OF THE ORLOV
TRIAL PUBLICITY IT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON
ON AFTERNOON OF MAY 18, TO POSTPONE INDEFINITELY SIGNING
A SPORTS AGREEMENT WITH THE USSR. THE SIGNING
CEREMONY HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MAY 19 IN MOSCOW,
AND A U.K. SPORTS DELEGATION WAS IN TOWN FOR THE EVENT.

WHEN THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR INFORMED THE SOVIET MFA,
UNDER INSTRUCTIONS HE MERELY CITED "PRESENT CIRCUM-
STANCES" AS CAUSING THE BRITISH DECISION TO DELAY
SIGNING. THE SOVIET SIDE (SAFRONCHUK) REPORTEDLY
TOOK THIS NEWS CALMLY, ASKING ONLY IF THE BRITISH
WERE SATISFIED WITH THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT (THE
BRITISH AMBASSADOR SAID YES) AND IF THE BRITISH HAD
A NEW DATE IN MIND (THE AMBASSADOR SAID THEY DID NOT).

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 11766

THE SPORTS DELEGATION HAS BEEN TREATED WELL BY ITS
SOVIET HOSTS AND SOVIET ATTENDANCE AT A RECEPTION
IN THE DELEGATION'S HONOR MAY 24 REPORTEDLY WAS NORMAL.
THE BRITISH ALSO TOLD US THAT THE ORLOV AFFAIR DID
NOT IMPINGE ON THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING IN LONDON
CO-CHAIRLED BY DEPUTY PREMIER (AND SCST CHAIRMAN)
KIRILLIN. MATLOCK

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